REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

These remarks are submitted in response to the Office Action of October 15, 2008 (Office Action). As this response is timely filed within the 3-month shortened statutory period, no fee is believed due. However, the Examiner is expressly authorized to charge any deficiencies to Deposit Account No. 50-0951.

Claims Rejections – 35 USC § 103

Claims 1, 6-13, and 37 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Published Patent Application 2003/0065721 to Roskind (hereinafter Roskind) in view of U.S. Published Patent Application 2005/0086309 to Galli, *et al.* (hereinafter Galli), and in further view of "Blogging: Genius Strategies for Instant Web Content", by Biz Stone, Publisher: New Riders, Pub. Date September 11, 2002 (hereinafter Stone). Claim 4 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Roskind in view of Galli and Stone, and in further view of U.S. Published Patent Application 2005/0075097 to Lehikoinen, *et al.* (hereinafter Lehikoinen). Claim 5 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Roskind in view of Galli and Stone, and in further view of U.S. Patent 6,791,582 to Linsey (hereinafter Linsey).

Although Applicants respectfully disagree with the rejections, Applicants have amended Claims 1 and 37. As discussed herein, the claim amendments are fully supported throughout the Specification. No new matter has been introduced by the claim amendments.

Aspects of Applicants' Invention

It may be helpful to reiterate certain aspects of Applicants' invention prior to addressing the cited references.

One embodiment of the invention, as typified by amended Claim 1, is a method of publishing instant messages exchanged during an instant messaging session to one or more Weblogs. The method can include establishing an instant messaging session among two or more users; compiling a transcript of the instant messaging session by an instant messaging client upon a request of a user of the instant messaging client; saving the compiled transcript to a specified portion of a memory; receiving a user request to publish the transcript of the session to at least one Weblog specified by the user; transmitting the saved transcript to a blogging system; determining a destination of the at least one Weblog; generating an indicator indicating at least one of a format, font, and color in which the transcript is to be published; and publishing the transcript to the at least one Weblog according to the indicator. See, e.g., Specification, paragraphs [0036] to [0041]; see also Fig. 4.

Another embodiment of the invention, as typified by amended Claim 37, is a method of sharing instant messaging transcripts. The method can include establishing an instant messaging session among two or more users; receiving a user request to join a Weblog agent to the instant messaging session; recording the instant messaging session by the Weblog agent; compiling the recorded instant messaging session into a transcript upon termination of the instant messaging session; assigning one or more Weblog destinations to the transcript; generating an indicator indicating at least one of a format, font, and color in which the transcript is to be published; and publishing the transcript to one or more Weblogs corresponding to the assigned one or more Weblog destinations according to the indicator. See, e.g., Specification, paragraphs [0042] to [0044]; see also Fig. 5.

The Claims Define Over The Prior Art

Text-based Internet communication systems, such as instant messaging and chat over a data communications link, have become increasingly popular due to the substantially real time nature of the communication, low cost, and simplicity of use.

Instant messaging allows users to communicate over a communications network in substantially real time. That is, instant messaging is a service which enables users to send relatively immediate messages to one another over a communications network using communications devices such as wireless telephones, pagers, computers, and personal digital assistants (PDAs). Typically, the instant messaging service is hosted by a server running an instant messaging application which facilitates communications between devices equipped with a specialized messaging software. The messaging software, referred to as the instant messaging or chat client, normally includes a graphical user interface (GUI) containing a message text window in which both incoming and outgoing instant messages (IMs) can be presented to an end user. The window is invoked when a user either types in an IM, or receives an IM from another user. Typically the IMs are displayed on the window in the form of scrolling dialog. See Specification, paragraphs [0002] and [0003].

Instant messaging technology has progressed from single line text-based interfaces to more sophisticated GUI-based clients. These GUI-based clients can process still images, real time images, text data, and information about a particular user. Accordingly, conventional instant messaging systems can support the exchange of attachments, which are electronic files such as images, documents, or binary objects which can be attached to an IM and transmitted therewith from a sender to a recipient. Attachments can also include multimedia files such as audio and video. For example, during an instant messaging exchange, in addition to seeing the text typed by a participant, a business user can view the video recording of a keynote speech, listen to the audio of a message recorded on a colleague's voicemail system, or simply receive such files as attachments to IM communications. In the business environment, users have found that instant messaging is an effective tool for facilitating virtual conferences, and enabling individuals to easily collaborate on projects. Also gaining popularity in the area of Internet communications is the use of a special purpose website known as a Weblog, or often abbreviated as a "blog". Similar to a website, a Weblog is a searchable electronic

medium that can be accessed with a Web browser. However, in contrast to a website which typically consists of a home page which can link to any number of sub-pages, a Weblog consists of a single main page. On this page the Weblog's author, or blogger, can add entries regarding a topic of interest. For example, if a blogger is interested in technology, the blogger might attend a technological trade show and post entries to his Weblog regarding new products featured at the show. Similarly, if a blogger is interested in a certain disease, the blogger may post a recent medical advancement in the treatment of the disease as an entry to his Weblog. Notably, a business user can post the status of an on-going project to his Weblog for other project members to see. See Specification, paragraphs [0004] and [0005].

Entries posted to a Weblog are typically arranged on a page in a vertical column format, in reverse-chronological order, from the most recent entry to least recent. When the blogger adds a new entry, it is posted to the top of the vertical column, pushing all the older entries down the column. While typical Weblog entries consist of simple text blurbs or links to other websites, the entries can include electronic files such as images, documents, binary objects, as well as multimedia elements such as audio and video. Moreover, the types of Weblogs are as diverse as the content on the Web itself. Many Weblogs invite feedback through discussion postings, and Weblogs often point to other Weblogs in an ecosystem of news, opinions, and ideas known as the Blogosphere. On-line publishing through Weblogs has become an increasingly significant form of on-line communication and information distribution. Business users have begun to deploy Weblogs to facilitate communication within corporate groups, departments and project teams. As interactive communication software, such as instant messaging, also continues to grow as a key method for electronic communication, especially within the business environment, there is a need to integrate the two environments of instant messaging and Weblog publishing. See Specification, paragraphs [0006] and [0007].

The present invention provides a method for publishing instant messages exchanged during an instant messaging session to one or more Weblogs. The present

8

invention can compile the instant messages exchanged during an instant messaging session into an instant messaging transcript. Instant messages can include electronic files such as text-only, images, documents, binary objects, and multimedia files such as audio and video. The instant messaging transcript can be transmitted to one or more Weblogs, and formatted for visual display on the Weblog, in accordance with user specifications. See Specification, paragraphs [0008].

One aspect of the present invention can include a method of sharing instant messaging transcripts. The method can include: (a) establishing an instant messaging session; (b) receiving a user request to publish a transcript of the session to a Weblog; and (c) publishing the transcript to the Weblog. Each of the steps, (a), (b), and (c), can be performed by an instant messaging client. The method can also include saving the transcript to a portion of memory that is local to the instant messaging client. In one embodiment of the present invention, step (c) can include detecting a state change in the portion of memory, and, responsive to detecting a state change, sending the transcript to the Weblog. In another embodiment of the invention, step (c) can include receiving a second user input requesting that the transcript be sent to the Weblog. Thus, upon receiving a second user input, the transcript can be sent to the Weblog. One embodiment of the invention can include formatting the transcript according to a predefined template, wherein the predefined template specifies one or more Weblogs to which the transcript can be published, or one or more of sections of a Weblog to which the IM transcript can be stored. In another embodiment of the invention, the template specifies instructions for processing the Weblog according to the identity of the sender. One aspect of step (a) can include exchanging electronic documents within the instant messaging session, wherein the electronic document is saved as part of the transcript. Notably, the electronic document can specify multimedia content. In another embodiment of the invention, step (a) can include joining a Weblog agent to the instant messaging session, wherein the Weblog agent records transactions of the instant messaging session. This embodiment further includes sending the transcript to the Weblog using the Weblog agent.

Additionally, the transcript can be formatted according to a template using the Weblog agent. See Specification, paragraphs [0009] and [0013].

Roskind discloses a method of personalizing communications including accessing status information for instant messaging sessions involving an instant messaging identity and passively configuring a buddy group associated with the instant messaging identity to persistently reflect a list of participant identities from instant messaging sessions in which the instant messaging identity recently participated. The buddy group may be configured without action from the instant messaging identity. The list of participant identities may be maintained persistently beyond logout of the instant messaging identity. The list of participant identities may be maintained independent of a device used for the instant messaging sessions during which the list was created such that the buddy group is accessible from one or more different devices. See the Abstract.

Clearly, the subject matter of Roskind, which concerns passively configuring a buddy list, has nothing to do with the subject matter of the present invention, which concerns the integration of instant messaging and Weblog publishing.

It was asserted in the Office Action that Roskind discloses compiling a transcript of the instant messaging session by an instant messaging client [Roskind, paragraph 97] upon a request of a user of the instant messaging client [Roskind, paragraph 15].

Paragraphs [0097] and [0015] of Roskind read as follows:

[0097] Updating the IM log may include recording the screen names of participants of an IM session. The sender 602a, the recipient 602b, and/or the host 604 may be configured to detect at least one identity (e.g., the screen names) associated with an instant message during an IM session, for example, by parsing the header information of an instant message. Typically, the screen names recorded in the IM log of a particular subscriber will be supplemented with information including the time the IM session was established and the screen names of other subscribers that participated in the IM session where several subscribers communicate using group IM. Updating the IM log also may include tracking the instant messages sent during an IM session and recording the time that each instant message was sent and received, recording the time the IM session

10

was closed, and/or recording the time the sender 602a or the recipient 602b disconnected from the host 604.

[0015] A log associated with the instant messaging identity may be updated where the log includes a chronological record of instant messaging activity. In one implementation, the buddy group may be based on the updated log. Updating the log may include recording a screen name of a participant identity from an instant messaging session. Updating the log also may include recording a time when an instant messaging session is established.

It is noted that an IM log, which includes a chronological record of instant messaging activity, is different from a transcript of an instant messaging session, which is a compilation of the instant messages exchanged during an instant messaging session including electronic files such as text-only, images, documents, binary objects, and multimedia files such as audio and video (see Specification, paragraph [0008]). It is also noted that the IM log is not compiled upon a user's request, but rather automatically generated by the IM client itself.

It was stated in the Office Action that Roskind does not disclose receiving a user request to publish the transcript of the session to at least one Weblog specified by the user; transmitting the saved transcript to a blogging system; determining a destination of the at least one Weblog; generating an indicator indicating at least one of a format, font, and color in which the transcript is to be published; and publishing the transcript to the at least one Weblog according to the indicator, as recited in Claim 1 of the instant application. However, it was asserted that these limitations are disclosed by Galli and Stone.

Galli discloses an instant messaging (IM) framework that allows a number of software agents, called IMLets, to be stacked on top of an instant messenger application. Each of the software agents establishes a connection with a specific third-party service on the Internet. The end users of the IM session can share one or more third-party services through the agents without need of leaving the session. See paragraph [0020]. However, it is noted that this has nothing to do with publishing instant messages exchanged during

11

an instant messaging session to one or more Weblogs upon a user's request. In Galli, a user may access a Weblog agent from the IM GUI without leaving the IM session so that the user can conveniently multitask. However, accessing a Weblog application from an IM GUI by a user does not mean that the transcript of the IM session can be published in the Weblog upon the user's request.

It is disclosed in paragraphs [0108] and [0109] of Galli that during an instant messaging session, a conversation can be automatically published to a Web log service via an IMLet specifically implemented for this purpose. However, it is noted that when a user chooses this software application agent, the conversation will be automatically published to a Web log, not upon the user's request or in the user's selected format.

It is disclosed in paragraph [0116] of Galli that the framework can also be used with other environments than instant messenger environments; for example, IMLets can be used as assistant tools during the authoring of information, such as Weblogs (during a blog publishing authoring session, a user can use an assistant application, such as an IMLet, to insert a rich content provided by a third-party online service). This has nothing to do with publishing the transcript to the at least one Weblog according to the indicator, as recited in Claim 1 of the instant application. All this paragraph is saying is that instead of accessing third-party services from an IM environment, the third-party services can also be accessed from a Weblog authoring environment.

Stone discloses that WebCrimson allows a user to create almost any type of site with a consistent look and feel including single entry templates, index templates, and blog templates. However, Stone does not disclose generating an indicator indicating at least one of a format, font, and color in which the IM transcript is to be published in a Weblog, as disclosed in Claim 1 of the instant application.

The above discussion similarly applies to Claim 37 of the instant application.

Accordingly, the cited references, alone or in combination, fail to disclose or suggest each and every element of Claims 1 and 37, as amended. Applicants therefore respectfully submit that amended Claims 1 and 37 define over the prior art. Furthermore,

as each of the remaining claims depends from Claim 1 while reciting additional features, Applicants further respectfully submit that the remaining claims likewise define over the prior art.

Applicants thus respectfully request that the claim rejections under 35 U.S.C. §103 be withdrawn.

CONCLUSION

Applicants believe that this application is now in full condition for allowance, which action is respectfully requested. Applicants request that the Examiner call the undersigned if clarification is needed on any matter within this Amendment, or if the Examiner believes a telephone interview would expedite the prosecution of the subject application to completion.

Respectfully submitted,

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